STAY HOME • STAY SAFE
PARCEL SERVICES AVAILABLE
zomato | SWIGGY
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
MAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522880

STAR OF MYSORE

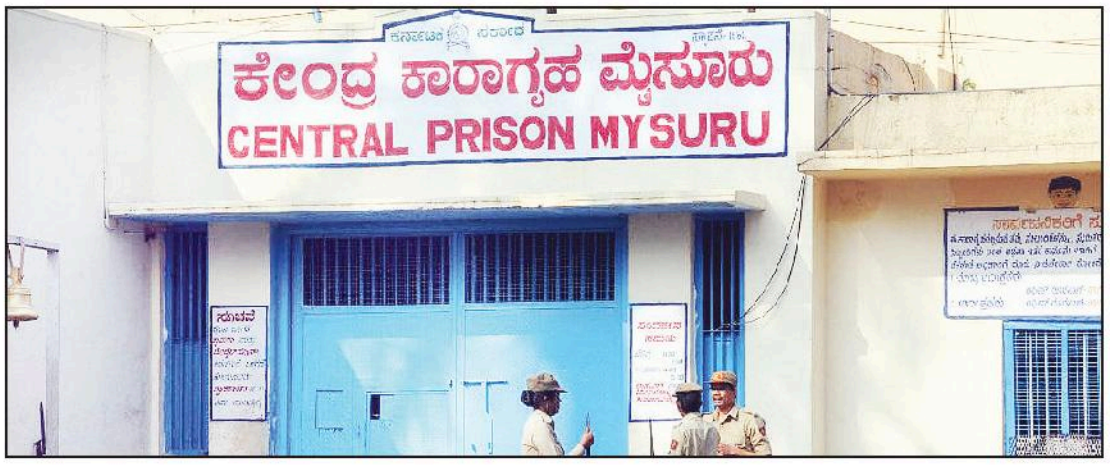
OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 44 No. 87 Pages: 12 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Sunday 16th May 2021
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Mysuru jail releases prisoners on parole

32 test positive; 178 inmates who are above 45 receive first dose of vaccination



Mysuru, May 16 (MTY&BCT)- Following a Supreme Court directive to decongest overcrowded prisons in view of the raging second wave of COVID-19 contagion, over 50 inmates of Mysuru Central Prison are being released in stages on a 90-day parole — in cases involving punishment of less or up to seven years imprisonment.

The Supreme Court had directed that special committees or 'High-Powered Committees' constituted in States and districts can screen prisoners and release them on interim bail. In addition to these fresh releases, the Court said prisoners who were released on interim bail during the 2020 surge should be freed again "forthwith."

Ninety percent of inmates released last year had returned to their prisons in February, March and April 2021. Similarly, inmates who were given parole in 2020 should be released again on a 90-day parole in a bid to de-congest prisons, control infections and save lives within the prison walls, the Court noted.

Confirming this to *Star of Mysore,* Chief Jail Superintendent of Central Prison Mysuru, Divyashree said that prisoners are being released on a day-to-day basis after approval from district-level committee comprising senior judges and Police officials, besides the jail superintendent.

(See PRISONERS on page 6)

Former CAVA Dean V.A. Deshpande passes away

V.A. Deshpande

Mysuru, May 16- City's renowned sculptor and former Dean of Chamarajendra Government College of Visual Arts (CAVA) V.A. Deshpande (66), passed away in the wee hours of today in city.

A resident of Studio Prathima at Chikkegowdanakoppal, Aloka Road in Yelwal here, he leaves behind his wife, two sons, daughters-in-law and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this morning, according to family sources.

(See DESHPANDE on page 6)

Young doctors display exceptional commitment during pandemic times

Dr. Swaroop S. Gaikwad works at COVID Mitra Centre set up at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Maternity Hospital on JLB Road in city. Picture right shows Dr. Sanjana examining a patient where her condition is assessed.

By M.T. Yogesh Kumar

The on-going pandemic, though extremely challenging for all, has especially been taking a toll on medical workers around the globe. Despite facing innumerable physical and psychological challenges, healthcare personnel are playing an indispensable role during this continued crisis.

A majority of the doctors serving in COVID Hospitals and healthcare facilities are post-graduate trainees who constitute a unique, vulnerable group of young doctors who are at the forefront of managing the COVID-19 patients in the middle of their training period.

In Mysuru, several young trainees between the age group of 23 to 25 have been put on duty at 'COVID Mitra' and interestingly they have come on voluntary service, displaying their professional commitment and dedication.

Over 35 young doctors who are in the intermediate and final year of their medical course have joined the fight along with 150 non-medical students.

They are assisting junior and senior doctors and some are independently handling responsibilities. These doctors are from all specialities including physiotherapy, dental, surgeries and others.

The 'COVID Mitra' established at Seth Mohandas Tulsidas Maternity Hospital on JLB Road by the District Administration is being independently managed by physiotherapist-to-be Dr. Swaroop S. Gaikwad.

He is pursuing his final year Physiotherapy from JSS Medical College. He will graduate in another three to four months and has been putting in long hours at Tulsidas Hospital.

(See DOCTORS on page 6)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Sunday 16th May 2021

After Mysuru and Chamarajanagar...

GAIL India to set up Oxygen Plant in Kundapura

Udupi, May 16 (UNI)- GAIL (India) Limited, in order to increase the availability of medical-grade oxygen, will build an oxygen generation plant at Taluk Government Hospital in Kundapura and nine other places across the country.

According to Taluk Government Hospital COVID-19 Nodal Officer Dr. Nagesh Kundapura, the work on the construction of Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plant will begin soon. The land had been identified for the plant. By June-end or July, the plant will be functional, he added.

He said the plant can generate 500 litres of oxygen per minute and 100 jumbo cylinders can be filled per day. A jumbo cylinder has a capacity of 7,000 litres (gas). Hence there would be sufficient oxygen supply in the taluk from next month onwards, he added.

Udupi Additional Deputy Commissioner Sadhashiv Prabhu said that the total cost of the project was estimated to be around Rs. 65.49 lakh. About 40 percent of the cost was paid in advance.

Fifty percent is paid against the performance invoice before the dispatch. The remaining 10 percent is paid after the commissioning of the plant, he added.

It may be mentioned, *Star of Mysore* had published a news item titled *"GAIL India to set up Oxygen Plants in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar"* in its issue dated May 5, 2021.

This is among the 551 PSAs to be set up across the country, as announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

MONITOR BLOOD GLUCOSE: ***I find that in many patients who were put on steroids for COVID-19, their blood glucose levels are not adequately monitored, leading to extremely, and often dangerously, high blood glucose levels. This can also precipitate diabetic ketoacidosis — a classic situation where the more dangerous forms of mucormycosis occur. Hence, those treating COVID-19 infection must pay equal importance to the control of diabetes.***

To those with diabetes, my advice to them would be to have a healthy diet which has a lot of vegetables and less cereals (rice or chapati) and include more protein in the form of bengal gram, green gram, black gram, or mushroom. They must also have an active and regular exercise programme. It is very important for them to have their medicines regularly and if the sugars are not under control, to switch over to insulin if needed, at least for a short period. All these measures will help to effect good control of diabetes which can reduce the risk of developing COVID-19 and also its dangerous side-effects including mucormycosis. It is also very important to get oneself fully vaccinated. Vaccination will ensure that the risk of developing severe COVID-19, requiring hospitalisation and thus the risk of developing dangerous infections such as mucormycosis, can be drastically reduced.

— Dr. V. Mohan, Chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre, Chennai, in The Hindu

NEWS SPARKLERS

Unique power allows man to speak backwards

North Carolina: John Sevier Austin, a video editor from North Carolina, has a very unusual superpower – his brain allows him to speak and sing backwards, and is fluent in the unique "language".

Ever since he was a young boy, Austin knew that he was a bit different than most children his age. Try as he might, he never fit in with the other kids, he could never be on the same page with them, and that really messed with his head growing up. It wasn't until a few years ago that he found out he had Asperger's syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder on the autism spectrum, which explained both his social awkwardness and his strange superpower – the ability to speak and sing backwards.

"My brain is able to do all these functions all at once and this is what blows people's minds – in fact it even blows mine," John had stated in an interview in 2019.

Smallest chicken breed is also the most pompous

Bangkok: Serama chickens are the smallest in the world, but one really couldn't tell by their attitude. Seeing them pose with their head pulled back and chest sticking out, one would think they were some sort of feathered bodybuilders.

The Serama chicken can be traced back all the way to the 1600s, to the Kelantan province of Malaysia, but the current strain can be attributed to Wee Yean Een, a breeder who popularized it during the 1970s and even gave the chicken the Serama name, after King Rama of Thailand. However, the breed was almost extinct by bird flu in early 2000s. Luckily, they had already been exported to many countries by that point and were able to make a comeback.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth: Most back pain eventually requires surgery

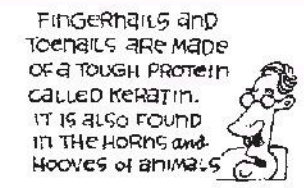
Almost everyone will experience back pain in their lifetime. But very less actually need surgery. It is estimated that 90% of people with back pain will get better without treatment or by using conservative treatments such as anti-inflammatory medication, exercise, coping skills and physical therapy. Spine surgery is recommended in about 1% of cases, and only with very specific symptoms and diagnoses. Surgery should only be considered if all conservative treatments have been exhausted.

By Dr. Ravikiran - Consultant Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Surgeon

COLUMBIA ASIA

COLUMBIA ASIA HOSPITAL - MYSORE

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*



Rates of nail growth vary greatly from one person to the next, depending on the age and health of the individual. Growth rates vary between 1/2 inch (1cm) and 4 inches (10 cm) per year. Fingernails grow approximately five times faster than toenails.

COVID-19 UPDATE - MYSURU

DATES	MAY 14	MAY 15
Day's Positive Cases	2,340	2,489
Total Positive Cases	1,07,827	11,0316
Day's Discharges	3,624	2,338
Total Discharges	91,715	94,053
Day's Deaths	12	15
Total Deaths	1,382	1,397
Total Active Cases	14,730	14,866

NOTE: Figures as per Government Media Bulletin

Home Minister's house converted into COVID Care Centre

Bengaluru, May 16 (UNI)- In order to help COVID-19 patients, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai's residence at Shiggavi, in his home District Haveri, was converted into COVID Care Centre (CCC) which will house 50 patients.

Bommai, who represents the Shiggavi Assembly Constituency, appointed Doctors and para-medical staff to take care of the patients, according to his Office sources. It was also said that the Minister wanted to have Oxygen Concentrators at the facility and thereby come to the rescue of patients with breathing problems. Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi extended his support with a 50-bed CCC at Athani in Belagavi district on his personal donation of Rs. 50 lakh and the same has been housed at Kittur Rani Channamma Hostel.

REALLY...?

- ***Legend has it that 9th-century goat herders noticed the effect caffeine had on their goats, who appeared to "dance" after eating the fruit of the Coffee plant. A local monk then made a drink with the produce and found that it kept him awake at night, thus the original cup of coffee was born.***
- ***Early on, people mixed coffee berries with fat to create an energy-rich snack ball. They would also ferment the pulp to make a wine-like drink.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

An irate woman burst into the baker's shop and said, "I sent my son in for two pounds of cookies this morning, but when I weighed them there was only one pound. I suggest that you check your scales." The baker looked at her calmly for a moment or two and then replied, *"Ma'am, I suggest you weigh your son!!"*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 73.28
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 103.30
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 19.95
1 Euro	= Rs. 89.00

VOICE OF THE READER

Plea to vaccinate bed-ridden people

Sir,

There are many elderly bed-ridden people in Mysuru for whom the logistics of transportation and risk have been a deterrent to their vaccination.

The rapidly emerging mutant variants of COVID means that vaccinated family members and caretakers might still get infection and pass it on to these very vulnerable people in their care, while thankfully escaping severe illness themselves.

Can the vaccination authorities get a member of the mobile vaccination teams to do house visits in the suburbs they are visiting if expression of interest from families is made?

—M. Kishore
on e-mail

Jayanagar
13.5.2021

Scarcity of water in BSNL Layout

Sir,

There is scarcity of water in BSNL Layout, Doorvaninagar, Shaktinagar Post, near VTU Centre, Mysuru. This is happening quite frequently in the recent past.

As a result, residents must run from pillar to post and plead with BSNL Society Association members to arrange water for day to day usage.

From last 5-7 days residents have no water. MUDA is collecting tax, but has failed to provide basic necessities like water, motorable roads, street lights etc.

Can the authorities concerned throw some light and solve the problem during these pandemic times immediately?

—A concerned resident
BSNL Layout
13.5.2021

Webinar and competitions by Mysuru Zoo from tomorrow

Mysuru, May 16 (KS)- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, Mysuru Zoo has organised awareness programmes on Mysore Slender Loris, Nilgiri Langur and Grey Wolf as part of Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav Conservation to Co-existence and also webinars and competitions from tomorrow (May 17) till May 23.

On May 17, a talk on Nilgiri Langur by Dr. Mewa Singh, Professor, Department of Psychology and Institute of Excellence, University of Mysore will be held. On May 18, a talk on Mysore Slender Loris will be delivered by Dr. Honnavalli Kumara, Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. On May 19, Wildlife Photographers and documentary makers Krupakar and Senani will deliver a talk on Grey Wolf. Poster making competition will be held on May 20, quiz on May 21, essay contest on May 22 and drawing and painting contest will be held on May 23.

Those interested may apply online through Google forms by clicking the link *https://forms.gle/Vb5M71vZs6fydQuo6*.

For details contact Ph: 0821-2520302 or 2440752 or call Mob: 96866-68099, according to a press release.

Covishield 2nd dose: Calling citizens

Mysuru, May 16- The Government of India has informed that based on the recommendation of National Technical Advisory Group of Immunization (NTAGI) and National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration (NEGVAC), the second dose of Covishield Vaccine should be administered to eligible beneficiaries at 12 to 16 weeks interval after receiving first dose (earlier interval was 6 to 8 weeks).

Hence, citizens are requested not to visit Vaccination Centres if they have not completed 12 weeks after the first dose of Covishield vaccine. The revised time interval is only to Covishield and not to Covaxin (4 to 6 weeks).

Rural Mysuru too facing COVID-19 community spread, says DC

Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri

Mysuru, May 16 (SBD&DM)- Confirming that rural parts of the district too are facing COVID-19 community spread, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rohini Sindhuri observed that taking the right medicines for first five days will help in recovery.

Addressing live on *Facebook* yesterday, Sindhuri said that the district currently has 18,000 active cases and fifty percent of them are reported from taluks. Noting that earlier, the infection was 90 percent in Mysuru city and only 10 percent in rural parts, she said that this figure definitely shows that community spread of the virus has begun in rural parts too. Pointing out that 'COVID Mitra' centres have been set up, where doctors will treat patients for mild symptoms, she said that this will help in reducing the pressure on hospitals.

Stating that 150 PHCs (Primary Health Centres) in the district, including 23 in city, have been converted as 'COVID Mitra' centres, she said that each centre is being visited by 100 to 150 people on an average every day. Maintaining that all the centres have sufficient stock of medicines, she said that those in need are being distributed primary health kits.

Highlighting the importance of following three Ts-Testing, Tracing and Treatment for containing the spread of virus, the DC said that 30 percent of RT-PCR test reports are turning out to be wrong in the second wave of attack. Stressing on the importance of Medicare in the first five days of symptoms, she said that it has been ascertained that delayed hospitalisation was the main cause of deaths in majority of cases. Explaining the idea behind the establishment of 'COVID Mitras,' she said that taking the right medicines in the first five days of symptoms is crucial and 90 percent of positive patients can recover in home isolation.

Explaining her own experience, the DC said that barring her, all her other family members were tested positive for COVID. But still, as she is a primary contact and under medication. Observing that just taking Dolo tablets for Fever and Cetrizine tablet for cold will be of not much help, she said that proper medication as prescribed by doctors is vital.

She further said that all her family members have taken Ivermectin tablets for the first three days, Doxicyclin 100 mg tablets for five days along with other prescribed medicines, which has helped in recovery.

Referring to vaccination drive, Rohini said that she contended that Mysuru has achieved a record 68 percent target in vaccination. Noting that some of the taluks have reported a high vaccination record of 80 percent, she said that vaccination of people in the age group of 18 to 44 years has been temporarily stopped following a Government direction. Pointing out 95 percent of the people have received Covishield jabs, while only 5 percent have got Covaxin jabs, she said that the vaccination drive for people aged over 45 years was started on Apr.1.

As the second dose period of Covishield has now been rescheduled, the district administration has time till mid-June for starting administration of second dose. Asserting that the district currently has a vaccine stock of 20,000 vials, she said that the Government has capped the testing to 3,500 per day due to change in parameters in the second wave and also to eliminate faulty reports.

Maintaining that taking excessive steroids too is taking toll on COVID patients, Rohini said that overdose of steroids in the first five days in the absence of other medication, too is to be blamed for high rate of deaths. Noting that K.R. Nagar has reported the most number of deaths in the district, she said that it is alarming to note that most of the dead are in the age group of 30 to 50 years.

DC advocated Five-point formula

Asking the people to visit nearest health centres in case they develop symptoms such as fever, cold, cough etc., she said that it is very important that people take in the right quantity at the right time.

She advised people to mandatorily follow the five-point safety and precautionary formula for staying safe — Proper wearing of face mask, maintenance of physical distancing, sleeping in prone position, proper medication and consumption of Nutrition rich foods.

The DC further said that this five-point formula is being widely propagated through ASHA workers and Anganawadi workers who visit homes and paste stickers that contains the name of medicines and details about the formula.

'Get beds for patients in Private Hospitals under Govt. quota or face action'

Mysuru, May 16 (SSV)- Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri has warned of action against Nodal Officers and Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) representatives appointed to ensure beds for Corona positive patients in Private Hospitals if they failed to discharge their duty.

Chairing a meeting of Nodal Officers here yesterday, she said it was the responsibility of Nodal Officers and SAST representatives to get bed for a particular patient in a particular hospital. Poor patients were unable to clear the medical bills of Private Hospitals and such patients must be ensured bed in those hospitals in the Government quota. Discharge of patients admitted to Private Hospital under the Government quota must be immediately shared with the War Room. Non-availability of this information was causing many problems, she added.

The DC said cases will be booked under KPMA and Disaster Management Act against those Private Hospitals that fleece money from patients for giving treatment under the Government quota. A team consisting of a Nodal Officer, SAST representative and a Police Officer appointed for each hospital must work efficiently. Details pertaining to availability of beds in Government quota at Private Hospitals and hospital quota must be furnished, she noted.

Now, Remdesivir supply only through online indenting

Water-tight system developed to prevent hoarding, unscrupulous use and pilferage

Mysuru, May 16 (BCT)- A COVID patient-friendly and a fool-proof system has been developed by the State Government to prevent hoarding, black-marketing and pilferage of Remdesivir drug. The online system will ensure equitable distribution of the drug among patients and also will bring in a systemic change in how the drug is procured, allotted and administered to the end-patient.

The innovativeness of the system is that as soon as vial has been issued against a patient's name, the patient or the patient attendant receives SMS that the drug has been issued under his/her name. It also enables the patients to alert the authorities if they don't get the drug that has been procured under his/her name.

As per a circular issued by State Chief Secretary P. Ravikumar, the Government has set up a Special War Room to ensure rational supply and distribution of Remdesivir and oxygen.

IAS Officer Avinash Menon, who is the Additional Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and V.D. Nishchith, Joint Controller of Accounts, Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project (KSHIP), PWD, have been appointed as Nodal Officer and Assistant Nodal Officer respectively and the system has been developed by the War Room and was launched on May 7.

Last date

The State Authorities till now were accepting manual requests from hospitals for the supply of Remdesivir and from May 14, the manual system has been discontinued and hospitals now have to procure the drug through the online system that has been developed with multiple checks and balances.

Realising that there has been a huge gap between the demand and the supply of Remdesivir, the State has already declared that the drug will only be supplied directly from the Government to the end-user.

24x7 Helpline

A 24x7 Helpline number 89517-55722 has been setup to provide information about hospital-wise allocation of Remdesivir and also collect requirement for oxygen. The system has been jointly developed by Avinash Menon and Nishchith in co-ordination with National Informatics Centre (NIC), Government of India.

It is a system-based approach for online indenting and distribution and the method aims at

providing complete transparency, accountability, traceability and tracking of Remdesivir drug to the last mile — to the patients admitted at private hospitals. While the State takes care of Government patients in Government Hospitals and also Government patients in Private Hospitals through Suvarna Aarogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), the indenting system has been developed for Private Hospital patients.

How the system works

The system is open to only those Private Hospitals registered under Karnataka Private Medical Establishment (KPME) Act, 2007 and as a first step they have to register through the one-time online data collection form available at ***https://kpme.karnataka.gov.in/*** and can indent multiple times as per the requirement after logging into the portal. May 14 was also the last date for hospitals to register.

The system has been designed to obtain the identity of COVID patients by entering SRF (Specimen Referral Form) ID or the District Patient Code. The system draws the name, age, gender and the phone number used for generation of SRF ID at the time of testing from the back-end and the hospital must then enter the in-patient number, date of admission, CT score and type of bed occupied.

The hospital must enter the quantity of indent for each private patient who needs Remdesivir and the online application allows a maximum of six vials to be raised for each patient.

Jurisdictional Drugs Controller mapped

The indent is then forwarded automatically to the respective mapped District Assistant Drugs Controller, who will ensure that the distribution of the drugs is made as per the indent — pro-rata basis — and also based on availability of the drug from the supplier. Hospitals cannot claim the drug without linking it to a patient and after procurement and they cannot store the drug.

As per the existing treatment protocol, each patient can be administered a maximum of six vials and the hospitals can allot the drug to the patient. As soon as the hospital allots the drug to a patient, an automated SMS is sent to the patient or the attendant, whose mobile number has been used to generate the SRF ID. The SMS will carry the details like the quantity of vials issued to the patient by the respective Private Hospital.

Duplication avoided

The system ensures that hospitals mandatorily utilises the stock allocated for them at the earliest in order to raise fresh indent and duplication is avoided as Remdesivir cannot be re-indented against the names of the patients who have already been administered the drug. The system also pulls out back-end data from SAST and if a patient has already been administered the drug, the hospital cannot indent in his/her name.

An interesting feature is that the hospitals have to enter the consumed Remdesivir stocks in the portal and those hospitals that do not use the stock or do not show drug utilisation will not receive any fresh stock until the existing stock is utilised.

Over 57 Mysuru Private Hospitals register for drug procurement

District Minister appeals hospitals to register and help Government curb illegality

Mysuru, May 16 (BCT)- By developing this fool-proof and a water-tight system, Special War Room Nodal Officers Avinash Menon and Nishchith have applied brakes on unscrupulous use, profiteering, hoarding, black-marketing and pilferage of the drug that is considered vital to treat COVID patients.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Nishchith said that the transparent system, with multiple checks and balances, ensures that there are no unscientific claims. "The SMS sent to the patient after the drug is procured by a particular hospital under his/her name, provides a link to give feedback and also lodge a complaint if the doctor or hospital doesn't administer the dose," he said.

He added that it is a small attempt to ensure that the drug is equitably distributed and administered. "We have made it a citizen-centric initiative," he said. There are over 3,269 recognised hospitals in the State that will come under the system after they register in the KPME portal.

In Mysuru, 57 Hospitals have registered and of them five have indented requirement. As an incentive, we assure that 90 percent of the indents will be honoured, he said.

Meanwhile, Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar has appealed to all private hospitals in Mysuru to register in the KPME portal ***https://kpme.karnataka.gov.in/*** to get an uninterrupted supply of Remdesivir drug that can be used to treat critically ill COVID patients.

In letter to the heads of Private Hospitals released through the District Information Department, Somashekar has stated that the portal has been designed in such a way that there is accountability in the system and has been created to stop pilferage and black-marketing of the drug.

"Several hospitals in Karnataka in general and Mysuru in particular have registered in the portal, but a few hospitals in Mysuru are reluctant to register. Those Private Hospitals who have registered have been getting regular supply of Remdesivir. The drug is considered as a life-saver. I appeal to all private hospitals to register online and indent for the drug," he said.

WATER LEVEL

KABINI DAM

Maximum	:	2,284.00	feet
Today	:	2258.90	feet
Inflow	:	3,512	cusecs
Outflow	:	725	cusecs

HARANGI DAM

Maximum	:	2,859.00	feet
Today	:	2,820.98	feet
Inflow	:	622	cusecs
Outflow	:	80	cusecs

Free COVID Healthcare Centre opens at Gonikoppal

Lopamudra Medical Centre, Karuna Trust, donors and volunteers make the much-needed facility a reality

Mysuru, May 16 (BCT)- A 30-bed dedicated COVID Healthcare Centre has begun functioning at Lopamudra Medical Centre (LMC) at Gonikoppal in South Kodagu. COVID patients will be treated here free of cost. This Hospital will prove a boon to patients in South Kodagu who were earlier forced to travel either to Mysuru or Bengaluru that are already under pressure due to mounting infections.

The facility was inaugurated last evening by Kodagu District Minister V. Somanna who holds the Housing portfolio. He assured the Hospital authorities that he would take measures to give 30 oxygen cylinders to 30 beds and an additional stock of 60 cylinders as a back-up.

The COVID Healthcare Centre has been established by Karuna Trust, a Charitable Trust that has enabled integrated rural development and empowered the masses, Kodava Koota in the US, Kodava Deenabandhu Charitable Trust, Kodava Samajas and a dedicated team of volunteers, donors and various organisations, who have spared no efforts in making the COVID Centre a reality.

Businessman Jammada Aiyanna, Dr. Kalyatanda Gautham Subbaiah from University of Florida, Brigadier (Retd.) Maletira Devaiah, Kokkanda Pavan Aiyappa, Cheppudira Geetha Chengappa, Karuna Trust Joint Secretary Venkat Chekuri, Ponnampet Kodava Samaja President Chottekmada Rajeev Bopaiah and several others have made invaluable contribution to the facility.

They have raised funds alongside the Karuna Trust for infrastructure and also equipment and even many residents of Kodagu have contributed to the noble cause. The centre officially began functioning on May 15 under the leadership of Mukkatira Amrit Nanaiah, Consultant Physician and Diabetologist, and is located on the third floor of the LMC at Athur village, two kilometres from Gonikoppal.

Apart from Madikeri District Hospital and the Kodagu Institute of Medical Sciences there is no hospital in Kodagu to treat COVID patients. Thanks to the negligence of the Government and elected representatives who did not bother all these years to set up an advanced hospital. In this direction, the COVID Healthcare Centre at LMC will help save lives at the time of crisis.

The COVID Healthcare Centre will have 15 beds with piped oxygen, five beds with oxygen concentrators and 10 beds with BiPAP machines, a sort of a ventilator that is used to treat chronic conditions that affect breathing. The centre will have a pharmacy and lab facility and will be a high dependency unit. Separate entrances have been made to facilitate the entry of COVID patients so that other patients who come to the LMC are not affected in any way.

The LMC administration and the Karuna Trust will take care of providing doctors and nurses including consultations from doctors who are working in foreign shores. Donors are contributing to purchase oxygen, medicines including life-saving ones and also free food to the patients. On an average, a COVID patient has to spend lakhs of rupees for treatment and this healthcare centre provides free treatment and quality care.

The centre will treat moderate COVID patients, who will be referred by the Kodagu District Administration and Deputy Commissioner Charulata Somal has assured full support. The authorities are providing ambulance facility to the centre and the administration has assured to provide hassle-free oxygen supply from Mysuru.

A 200 Kilo Litre oxygen unit will be installed at the LMC facility by Karuna Trust. Well-known social worker and tribal activist recognised for his work with the Soligas in B.R. Hills Dr. H. Sudarshan is a guiding force behind the COVID Healthcare Centre and he is also the founder and Honorary Secretary of the Karuna Trust.

Minister Somanna, MLA K.G. Bopaiah, Dr. Amrit Nanaiah, Dr. Sudarshan and hospital staff during the inauguration last evening.

'Committed to treat patients'

"The hospital has become a reality, thanks to the efforts of Karuna Trust. We have an aim to provide the finest care and are committed to treat patients in complete transparency and the centre is a zero-billing facility. Our intention is to come to the rescue of patients who are in need of medical care. The COVID Healthcare Centre has been created in such a way that it is bifurcated from the other treatment units of the hospital.

Amrit Nanaiah

Dr. Kalyatanda Gautham Subbaiah, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Florida, who has treated over 1,000 COVID patients in the US, will guide doctors at the facility."

— Dr. Mukkatira Amrit Nanaiah
head of Lopamudra Medical Centre

People rush for essentials at nearby shops despite drizzle

Rains to continue for 2 more days

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&DM)- With the city getting no respite from overnight heavy rains, with drizzle continuing in the morning as well, people ventured out to shops located close to their homes, braving the rains, to buy essential commodities and other articles of daily use, right from 6 am. Most people were seen walking through the streets holding umbrellas and wearing jackets and raincoats.

Due to cyclonic storm Tauktae, the city has been witnessing moderate to heavy showers since late night on Thursday. As rains continued to drizzle, people preferred to shop essential commodities at shops in their own locality and as such, the Central Business District wore an almost deserted look.

After the shops shut down at 10 am, the localities too painted a deserted picture with hardly a handful of people and vehicles seen on streets.

As today is a Sunday, long queues of people were seen in most of mutton, chicken meat and fish selling shops, with people eager to buy their required quantity within the 10 am deadline, when shops shut for the day due to COVID Curfew.

Meanwhile, Dr. Govindaraju of Organic Farming Research Station at Naganahalli in the taluk, told *Star of Mysore* this morning said that the city and the taluk will receive light to moderate rainfall for two more days due to the effect of Tauktae cyclonic storm.

He observed that heavy rains may bear an impact on the crop yield in respect of cereal and millet crops due to soil dampness and at the same time the rain is a boon to tobacco, as sowing is over and as well as paddy and sugarcane crops.

Mysuru jail releases prisoners on parole

(Continued from page 1)

The committee was constituted under the directions of Supreme Court in March 2020 in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic to release convicts/under trials on parole/interim bail. The process started last Friday and will be completed in another two to three days, she said.

Over 35 prisoners have tested positive for the virus and they are being treated at COVID care centres within the jail premises and they have been housed separately and they don't mix with other prisoners. Incidentally at the Madikeri Jail too, two prisoners tested positive and they are being treated. There are 136 prisoners in Madikeri Jail.

Mysuru Central Jail roughly houses over 750 to 800 inmates and the numbers differ day to day. "Last year, we had released over 66 prisoners on a 90-day parole after stringent screening and based on their good behaviour and after approval from the committee and after their parole, all of them have returned to the barracks. This year, we are following the same procedure," Divyashree explained.

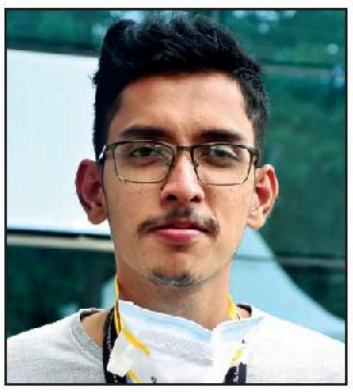
The jail authorities have observed that a majority of the infected are new inmates and those who have returned from hospitals were taken there to get medicines for other illnesses. "We are now not admitting new inmates directly but they are housed in separate enclosures. Only if they test negative after RT-PCR tests, they are allowed inside," she added.

Under trials are being released on interim bails, convicts are being released on parole as per the guidelines. Once they are released, the jurisdictional Police from where the inmates hail will be informed, she added.

Regarding vaccination, Divyashree said a list of inmates who are above 18 years of age have been prepared and sent to higher authorities for vaccination and 178 inmates who are above 45 have already received the first dose of vaccination, she said.

Young doctors display exceptional commitment during pandemic time

Dr. B.S. Sanjana



Dr. Swaroop

(Continued from page 1)

When the second wave showed signs of peaking in Mysuru, Dr. Swaroop voluntarily worked in the War Room interacting with patients over phone. Now as the pandemic has reached alarming proportions, he decided to get on to the field as Mysuru required doctors and there was a dearth.

Mentally strong

He is a resident of Vidyaranyapuram and his parents are Shivajirao Gaikwad and Shyamala S. Gaikwad. Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Swaroop said that apart from stringent physical precautionary measures, doctors have to be mentally strong and full of positivity. "Many COVID patients who land up at 'COVID Mitra' will be emotional, despite being physically sound. They would have faced the social stigma attached to the disease and in most cases, family members would have stayed away from them. To counsel them, we need to be strong and prepared," he said.

Counselling is a difficult part and many times, children are brought to 'COVID Mitra' by parents who weep at their condition.

"This makes the children lose mental strength and we have to fill in for parents and perform the role of a counsellor-cum-parent. If the oxygen saturation level is between 85 and 90 we give oxygen for them to recover. Even if some patients have a saturation level of 97, they plead for oxygen. These people come her out of fear and have become mentally weak after seeing reports of death and misery. We need to counsel them for them to realise that they are strong and they have not been affected by the disease," Dr. Swaroop explained and added that physiotherapy plays an important role in treating patients.

Putting in best efforts

Another young doctor, who is a dentist Dr. B.S. Sanjana joined the mission to control COVID after she saw the news that the Mysuru City Corporation has invited volunteers for pandemic work. She is a resident of Srirampura and is the daughter of B.S. Srinath and H.S. Anupama. "I have been practicing in Mysuru since the last three years and during the lockdown last year, I stopped practicing and have got on to voluntary service as patients are desperate in need of help and Mysuru District needed doctors," she said.

Before getting on to voluntary service, Dr. Sanjana got basic training from senior doctors on swab collection, triaging patients depending on the severity of the disease and prescribing medicines. "All medicines are given by us are prescribed by the doctors for symptoms like cold, fever and we tell patients to often clean their mouths so that the virus load is reduced. We tell them not to mix toothbrushes as there is a chance of virus spreading from the brush used by COVID-positive person," she said.

Dr. Sanjana feels that she is doing her bit for the society in the time of crisis. "I feel proud to serve the people and during the service period, we have to be detached from family and I live in quarantine now," she said.

Former CAVA Dean

V.A. Deshpande passes away

(Continued from page 1)

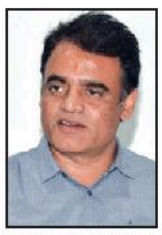
Vyasamurthy Ananthrao Deshpande was born in Badami at Bagalkot district in 1955. After completing his primary education from Dharwad School of Art, he moved to Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda to pursue Diploma in Sculpture. Later, he completed PG Diploma in Sculpture specialising in metal casting.

He was awarded Karnataka Lalitkala Academy scholarship as well as Faculty of Fine Arts Merit Scholarship. He joined as a Lecturer in Malnad College of Engineering in the Department of Architecture in 1981 and later joined the newly-established Chamarajendra Academy of Visual Arts (CAVA) in Mysuru during 1983. He headed the institution as its Dean since 2005 for more than 10 years.

The 9.5 ft bronze statue of former Deputy Prime Minister Babu Jagjivan Ram, 9 ft bronze statue of Sarvagna, 9 ft Rani Abbakka Devi, 5.8 ft and 3ft statues of Sri Rajendra Swamiji of Suttur and statue of 'Kuvempu sitting on a chair' installed at the entrance to Manasagangothri campus on Bogadi Road are some of his exemplary works in sculpture.

He was the recipient of the 2019 State Kannada Rajyotsava Award.

No home isolation for COVID positive in rural areas, urban slums



Dr. Ashwathnarayan

Bengaluru, May 16 (SSV)- The State Government has decided not to allow home isolation in rural areas and slums of urban areas to get them admitted mandatorily to COVID Care Centres (CCCs), said Deputy Chief Minister and State COVID Ministerial Task Force Head, Dr. C.N. Ashwathnarayan.

After the Task Force meeting here yesterday, he said, "In rural areas, COVID Care Centres will be established at Primary Health Centre (PHC) level. Rapid Antigen Test needs to be done at the door step in viral hot spots. In rural areas, arrangements for isolation and treatment will be made in places such as hostels. This has to be done under the supervision of Deputy Commissioners," he said.

He said that Task Force took several decisions with regard to ICU beds, oxygenated beds, vaccination, drugs and consumables procurement, black fungal mitigation and strengthening of health infrastructure in both rural and urban areas.

Important decisions

In every District Hospital, 100 ICU beds will be made available on a permanent basis. For this, required infrastructure and manpower need to be provided and all these should have oxygen generating units.

Only 2nd dose of Covaxin will be administered. Those who have taken the 1st dose 6 weeks earlier will be inoculated on priority. Covishield 2nd dose will be administered for those who have completed 12 weeks after taking the 1st dose. Before this gap, no one will be given the 2nd dose. First dose of this vaccine will be administered for the age group of above 45 years.

New app for vaccine

With regard to administering vaccine for 18-44 age group a new App needs to be developed. This will be interfaced with CoWIN App and later the vaccination schedule will be prepared taking into account the availability of vaccines.

For administering vaccine priority list will be prepared. This may include those who are working in the Postal Department, Agricultural Department, Bank employees, internet service providers, etc. Vaccine will be administered outside hospitals, in places such as school grounds, etc.

For each bed, Rs.10 will be given to facilitate timely disposal of waste in Government Hospitals. Medical kits will be given for also those infected referred by private doctors.

To study the changes in the genetics of viruses, it was decided to set up Genome Labs in 6 places in the State. Out of these, 4 will be from Medical Colleges and two will be from the Health Department.

Other related decisions

It was approved to procure medicines and other consumables required for the next 90 days in a phased manner at the expense of Rs. 260 crore. Procurement will be done through State Medical Supply Corporation by floating tenders.

At present about 400 black fungus cases are estimated per week and there is a shortage of required drugs. The Central Government will be asked to provide 20,000 vials of the needed drug.

Oxygen regulators

1,000 oxygen utility regulatory devices developed by DRDO will be purchased. Out of this, 900 will be an automatic model which costs Rs. 10,000 each and 100 will be of manual mode which costs Rs. 6,000 each.

Oxygen bottling plants will be set up in 9 districts that do not have this facility. Oxygen generators of 200-300 litres per minute will be set up in community health centres. All the beds will be oxygenated in all Taluk Hospitals. To facilitate this, oxygen generators of capacity 500-600 litres per minute will be set up.

Global tender to procure 5 lakh Remdesivir injections and Rs. 75 crore reserved for this purpose. There are 207 community health centres with 30 beds each in the State. All the 30 beds in each of these centres will be converted into oxygenated beds. Out of these, 5 ICU beds and 5 HDU beds will be made available.

MLA Tanveer Sait alleges shortage of drugs in Government Hospitals

Tanveer Sait

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&DM)- Alleging that Government Hospitals and Primary Health Centres have run out of medicine stocks, Narasimharaja MLA Tanveer Sait has opposed global tenders floated by the Government for supply of COVID vaccines.

Speaking to presspersons after taking part in the District-level COVID Management Meeting of Congress party at Jaladarshini Guest House here yesterday, Sait reiterated that there is acute shortage of medicines and vaccines at Government Hospitals and PHCs in the district. Asserting that inviting global tenders would mean a delay in vaccine supplies, he urged the Government to allow localised procurement of vaccines under discretionary quota. Highlighting the disadvantages of floating global tenders, he urged the Government to come up with a clear cut policy on medicine procurement and supply logistics.

Pointing out that though 42 medical staff have been deployed at N.R. Covid Care Centre, only 36 have reported for work, Sait wanted the authorities to ensure that proper care and treatment is given at this centre.

Claiming that the district administration had arbitrarily shifted three out of the five ventilators that were available at taluk centres to Mysuru city, the MLA wondered who is to be blamed for any criticalities that may occur at taluks.

He also urged the Government to ensure that patients being treated at Government hospitals get Remdesivir injections at the right time.

Wanting the Government to declare the names of members of COVID-19 District-level task force, he bemoaned that he is being ignored for key meetings. He urged the district administration to ensure that Protocol regarding invitation to people representatives is properly followed.

The MLA further said that he would write to the District Minister and Deputy Commissioner highlighting the lapses in bed allotment and also give some suggestions on streamlining of bed allocation so that needy patients are not left to fend for themselves.

Congress leaders demand white paper on allotment of money for tackling COVID

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&DM)- Former MP R. Dhruvanarayan, who is also the KPCC Working President and Varuna Congress MLA Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah have demanded a white paper on the allocation of money by the State Government for tackling the deadly COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking to presspersons after holding a meeting on COVID Management at Jaladarshini Guest House here yesterday, Dhruvanarayan claimed that the State Government had gone bankrupt and as such, the Government should come up with a white paper on the financial position of the State. Maintaining that the lives of people is more important than anything else, the former MP alleged that the State Government had miserably failed in checking the spread of the second wave of attack. Asserting that Congress workers are actively involved in the battle against the virus, he said that the Congress has come up with certain plans for the help of affected people.

Pointing out that Congress legislators and workers have been working with their own plans and funds for tackling the virus, he said that they are engaged in various COVID related activities such as ambulance service, distribution of medical kits, allotment of beds, supply of oxygen etc. Accusing the State Government of total failure in COVID management, he charged the Government of mismanaging vaccination drives in the State.

MLA Dr. Yathindra Siddharamaiah opposed the Government's decision to put a cap on RT-PCR testing. Advocating the need for the conduct of more tests, he said that the cap on testing had made tracing of contacts difficult.

Accusing the State Government of following unscientific ways in dealing with the deadly pandemic, he alleged that the Government had failed in making proper use of the services of doctors and other medical staff. Citing the example of Mumbai, where final year medical students are being engaged for COVID care, he said that the Government had also faltered in issuing the right treatment protocols.

Claiming that the Government was advocating prescription of Ivermectin tablets despite a World Health Organisation (WHO) warning, Dr. Yathindra said that the Government was not yet clear on the use of medicines for COVID treatment and maintained that the Government is also confused about Remdesivir injections in the absence of expert committee report.

Accusing the Government of being lax in the procurement of vital Remdesivir injections, he alleged that the Government had no foresight or plans on formulating a proper protocol.

MLAs Tanveer Sait, H.P. Manjunath and Anil Chikkamadu, former MLAs Vasu and Kalale Keshavamurthy, KPCC Women's Wing State President Dr. Pushpa Amarnath, District Congress President Dr. B.J. Vijaykumar, leaders Sunil Bose, D. Ravishankar and others were present.

Yuva Balaga provides food to Corona displaced families

Mysuru, May 16 (SSV)- Mysuru Yuva Balaga distributed food, sanitisers, face masks and water bottles to those who have taken refuge at Sri Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry in city.

MUDA Chairman H.V. Rajeev launched this programme by distributing it to the needy people. Speaking on the occasion, he said COVID-19 pandemic has devastated several families and causing problems for lakhs of people.

To control the contagion, the Government had no option except to clamp a total lockdown. It was true that lockdown was causing hardship to the common people but it was required in the interest of people's health. Need of the hour was to join hands together to fight against the pandemic, he noted.

He called upon officials to deal courteously with those who have taken the shelter temporarily and promised to be with them till lockdown ends.

Raghu Kautilya, Chairman, D. Devaraj Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation, M. Appanna, Chairman, Jungle Lodges and Resorts, M.N. Naveen Kumar, MUDA Member, Girish, Director, Jeevadhara Blood Bank, Rajeshwari Bai, Health Inspector, Balaga members, Naveen, Kantilal Jain and others were present.

Youth Congress distributes

home isolation kits to Corona patients

Mysuru, May 16 (PM&SSV)- Members of Karnataka Pradesh Youth Congress Committee, Mysuru Unit, launched free distribution of home isolation kits to Corona positive patients here on Thursday.

The function held at Congress Bhavan was inaugurated by District Youth Congress Committee President Donald F. Nirmanik. Speaking on the occasion, he said the State Unit has given 2,000 home isolation kits to the district which will be given to Corona positive patients in distress. This programme was at present limited to city and it will be extended to the entire district in the coming days, he said. Each kit contains medicines sufficient for five days. District Youth Congress Vice-President Hinkal Manju, Secretary Naveen and others were present.

Govt. sanctions Rs.700 crore to Private Schools as RTE Grant

Bengaluru, May 16 (KMS&DM)- In some relief for private unaided schools amid COVID crisis, the State Government has sanctioned Rs.700 crore to Private Schools under RTE (Right to Education) quota.

According to the Director of the Department of Public Instruction, the Government has transferred the money to the Department, which will be released to unaided Private Schools soon after the Government issues an order.

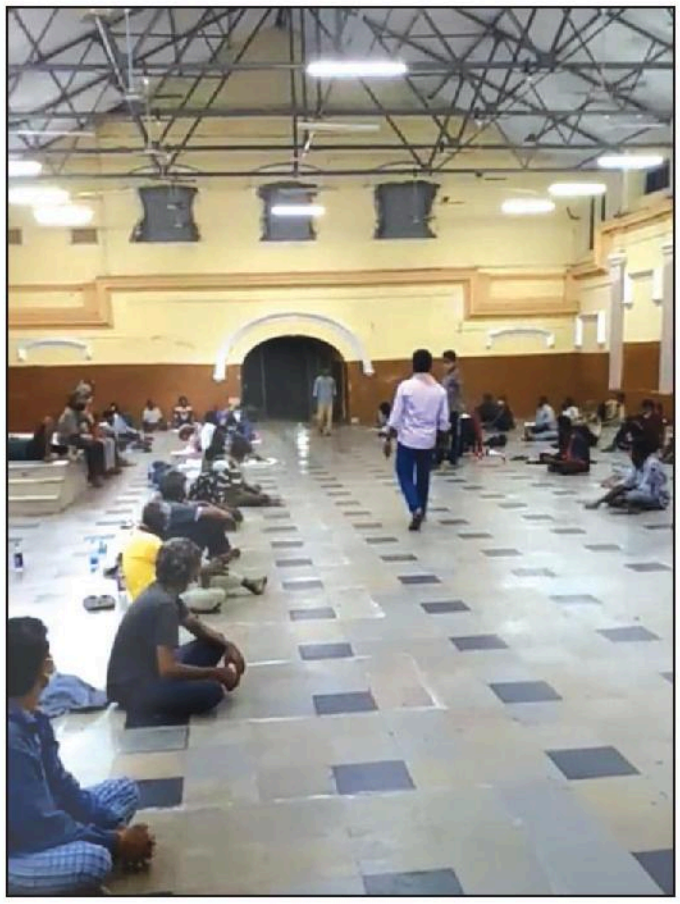
Meanwhile, sources said that the Government has instructed the Department to release RTE reimbursement money to Private Schools by the end of May.

The Department is said to have also warned DDPIs and BEOs against any laxity in the release of pending dues to schools .

Raghulal & Co., donates medical equipment to City Corporation

N. Raghavan (extreme left), *Proprietor of Raghulal & Co and Raghulal Surgicals in city seen after donating 65 stretchers, 16 foldable stretchers, 11 IV drips stands, six oxygen valves and other medical equipment worth more than Rs. 7 lakh to Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) as MCC Health Officer Dr. D.G. Nagaraj, Assistant Executive Engineer Mrutyunjaya and others look on.*

Trust offers help to COVID affected



Mysuru, May 16- In a pro-social initiative, city's Swarna Nrusimha Datta Sai Peethika Seva Trust has come to the rescue of COVID affected people in city.

Upon learning that hundreds of homeless and destitute people had taken shelter in Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry on Vinoba Road following the enforcement of COVID lockdown, Arjun Avadhoota Maharaj asked the Trust office-bearers to help to the homeless. Soon, the Trust office-bearers, accompanied by volunteers visited the choultry and distributed mats, bedspreads and woollen blankets to over 150 shelterless people.

They also distributed required medicines after getting a list from doctors, who had attended these homeless people. The inmates of the choultry were asked to wear face mask and follow other COVID guidelines for their own safety and health.

Venkatachala Avadhoota Guru and Arjun Avadhoota Guruji blessed the people on the occasion.

Mysuru couple celebrates
daughter's marriage in a simple way
Distributes Rs. 2 lakh among the poor

Mysuru, May 16 (SPN& SSV)- Mysuru District Savitha Samaja General Secretary Harish has become a role model for others by holding his daughter's marriage in simple manner. He also distributed Rs. 2 lakh, saved for this memorable event, among poor people.

Harish couple, residents of Tilaknagar, had arranged the marriage of their daughter H. Chitra Suman with Bharath Kumar. They had planned to spend Rs. 2 lakh on marriage. However, understanding the plight of the common people due to Corona crisis, the couple distributed Rs. 5,000 each to 40 persons. The marriage was held at the bride's house in Tilaknagar last week. This noble act of Harish has won the accolades from many people.

Mysuru District Savitha Samaja President H.R. Nagesh, who distributed money to poor families, said the State Government during last year lockdown had given Rs 5,000 to around 50,000 persons belonging to Savitha Samaja. Still around 1.5 lakh people were left out.

Now, the Government has clamped total lockdown to check Corona and the Salon shop owners were again facing financial crisis due to the closure of shops. It was the wish of every parent to celebrate the marriage of their sons or daughters in grand scale but the Corona crisis has prevented it, he added.

Arya Nayanaja Kshatriya Telugu Reddy Association Vice-President Guruprasad and community leaders Shivanna, Vishwanath, Raju Reddy, Sadananda, Nadanahalli Mahesh and others were present.

Use lockdown time to
update knowledge: Yaduveer

Mysuru, May 16 (MK& SSV)- Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, a member of erstwhile Mysore royal family, has appealed students to take advantage of the current lockdown to study and improve knowledge.

He was speaking after virtually inaugurating the 50-day online training programme for banking recruitment organised by Karnataka State Open University (KSOU), Competitive Examination Training Centre here yesterday.

Yaduveer said that KSOU was working to educate the youths and advised youths not to waste time but read books and update knowledge. KSOU Vice- Chancellor Prof. S. Vidyashankar said that knowledge was something that cannot be purchased. The varsity was active even during the current Corona crisis. Last year, they had held training for the Civil Services Examination.

Registrar Prof. R. Rajanna, Finance Officer A. Khader Pasha and Training Co-ordinator Jainahalli Sathyanarayana and others were present.

Mandya District Minister accuses Mysuru
Administration of blocking oxygen supplies

Mandya, May 16 (Mohan Raj)- Accusing Mysuru District Administration of failing to supply Mandya District's oxygen quota, Mandya District In-charge Minister K.C. Narayanagowda said that Mandya was getting only 3KL of oxygen as against its quota of 5 KL.

Addressing a press meet at the Deputy Commissioner's Office here on Friday, Narayangowda refuted Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha's claims that Mandya was getting its quota of oxygen in full. But the MP may not be knowing the fact that Mandya is getting only 3 KL out of the 5 KL allotted for the district, he said .

Contending that there will be no oxygen problem in the district if there is 10 KL supplies, Narayanagowda said that he has spoken to the Chief Secretary on supplying atleast 7 KL oxygen to the district, which will be just about enough for now. Asserting that the number of oxygenated beds cannot be increased for want of oxygen, he said that shortage of oxygen is the main reason for the delay in augmentation of oxygen beds.

Pointing out that film producer Vijay Kirgandur, who hails from Mandya district and Mandya's Milk body MANMUL have come forward for funding oxygen plants, the Minister said that the District Administration will set up oxygen plants at Mandya and Malavalli in two months, either with the help of more donors or through Government grant.

Blaming infected persons from Bengaluru and Mysuru for the rise in COVID cases in the district, Narayanagowda said that regular travel of employees and workers from Mandya to Bengaluru and Mysuru is the reason for the spurt.

Continuing, he said that there are a total of 612 oxygen beds in the district, including 517 in Government and 95 in Private Hospitals. Also, there are 12 ICU beds in Government and 19 in Private Hospitals and 45 ventilators in Government and 16 in Private Hospitals.

Out of the 40 ambulances in the district, 20 are reserved for COVID patients, 10 for ferrying COVID dead bodies and 10 for non-COVID patients.

Referring to the availability of Remdesivir injections in the district, he said that the district had only 280 injections as against the required 540, thus falling short by 260. The authorities have been directed to ensure that the district gets more of this vital vaccine in the coming days, he added.

Dismissing allegations that the District Minister was coming in the way of Indira canteen at K.R. Pet, Narayanagowda said that the Canteen would open soon in the town. Blaming the canteen contractor for the delay, he said that officials have been directed to ask the contractor to complete the works quickly.

He asserted that both the Union and State Governments were working overtime to prevent the possible outbreak of the third wave attack of the deadly virus. He sought the co-operation of the public for putting an end to the deadly contagion, which is snuffing out invaluable lives.

ZP CEO Divya Prabhu, ADC Shylaja, District Health Officer Dr. Manchegowda, MIMS Director Dr. Harish, CHMR Head Somashekar, District Information Officer T.K. Harish, District BJP President Vijaykumar and others were present.

'BJP Government failed to
handle vaccine distribution'

Hunsur, May 16 (KK&SSV)- KPCC Women's Wing President Dr. Pushpa Amaranth has urged the State Government to create jobs for daily wagers under the MGNREGA by increasing the present 100 days to 200 days due to current total lockdown.

Addressing a press meet here on Friday, she also wanted the Government to double the current wages from Rs. 273 which will help daily wagers.

"The second wave of COVID-19 pandemic was sweeping across the country and both State and Union Governments have failed to manage it. The Governments should have been in alert mode when the first wave struck the nation last year. The suggestion given by Opposition parties were taken with a pinch of salt and it resulted in death of innocent people," she said.

"To win praises in the global scenario, Prime Minister Narendra Modi donated vaccine to other nations. This has made India face acute shortage of vaccine for the countryman," she alleged.

She said that those who left Bengaluru before imposition of lockdown, spread Corona to rural areas. The situation in Bengaluru would not have been so worse had the Government looked after the needs of migrants. The Government must post Nodal Officers to Indira Canteens to streamline its functioning.

"PM Modi could have boosted the morale of people by taking the vaccine first which was not done. CM Yediyurappa, who claimed his Government as double engine, had failed to procure sufficient quantity of vaccine.

Only 20 percent population in the State had been vaccinated and still it has a long way to go," she noted.

Obituary

Dekamada C. Nachappa

Mysuru, May 16 - Dekamada C. Nachappa (72), a resident of Gokulam 3rd Stage, passed away this morning in city.

He leaves behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at Chirashanthidhama in Gokulam this noon.

Maniamma

Maniamma (65), wife of Puttaswamy and a resident of K.G. Koppal, passed away yesterday night in city.

She leaves behind her husband, two sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at K.G. Koppal Burial Grounds this morning.

P. Dixit Samson

P. Dixit Samson, retired lecturer at JSS College on Ooty Road, passed away on Friday in city.

He leaves behind his wife, two children and a host of relatives and friends. Funeral was held in city.

WORD OF THE DAY

Shrive

Pronunciation: SHRYVE.
Meaning: To administer the sacrament of reconciliation to; to free from guilt.
Origin: We wouldn't want to give the history of shrive short shrift, so here's the whole story. It began when the Latin verb scribere (meaning "to write") found its way onto the tongues of certain Germanic peoples who brought it to Britain in the early Middle Ages. Because it was often used for laying down directions or rules in writing, Old English speakers used their form of the term, scrīfan, to mean "to prescribe or impose." The Church adopted scrīfan to refer to the act of assigning penance to sinners and, later, to hearing confession and administering absolution. Today shrift, the noun form of shrive, makes up half of "short shrift," a phrase meaning "little or no attention or consideration." Originally, "short shrift" was the barely adequate time for confession before an execution.
Example: "Once every three months, Pancho took his savings and drove into Monterey to confess his sins, to do his penance, and be shriven and to get drunk, in the order named." — John Steinbeck, The Pastures of Heaven, 1932.

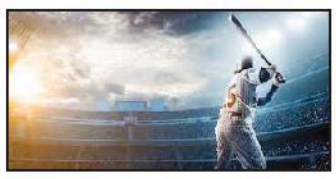
THE ODD WORD

Sabbatarian

One who keeps the sabbath strictly.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Swinging for the fences



Meaning: Giving something your maximum effort; going all out. A baseball term that refers to a batter who wants to hit the ball as hard as possible.
Origin: The phrase 'swing for the fences' likely originates from the sport of baseball. How so? Well, there are fences along the edges of the outfield. If a batter hits the ball hard enough, the ball would fly over the fences, making it impossible for the defensive team to catch it. This would result in a homerun for the batter's team. Hence, a player that is 'swinging for the fences' is hoping to hit a homerun, and that's not an easy thing to do! While this phrase was originally used in the context of baseball, it is now used in other contexts too for when someone is giving their maximum effort at something. The earliest one could find this expression in print is in the first half of the 20th century. All the recordings w've seen for it at that time use the phrase in connection to baseball. For example, the Sandusky Star Journal newspaper, printed in 1923, reads: "Now the only thought of every batter is to swing his hardest. The home-run germ has even hit the pitches. No longer do the batters seek to outguess the opposition, trip up the infield, the one big thought is swing for the fences."

QUOTE BOX

It is in the character of very few men to honour without envy a friend who has prospered. **—Aeschylus**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

FORWELLMED

Answer : Well informed.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

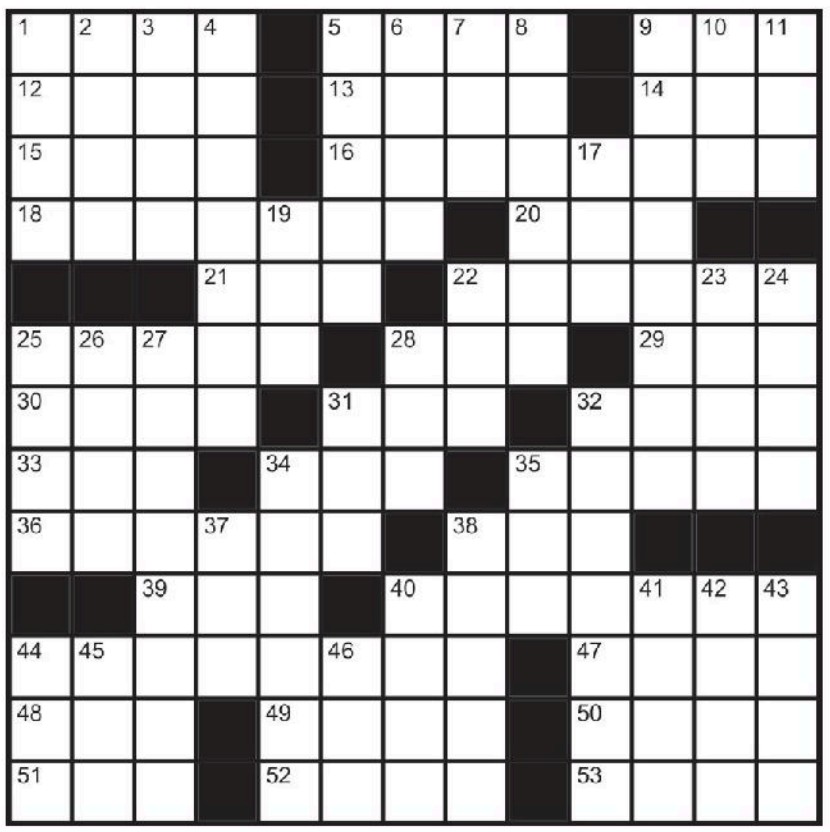
1 ___ Gagarin : famous Russian Cosmonaut?
5 Perfumed powder
9 A prefix meaning "all" or "universal"?
12 Unique or singular person
13 And others, abbreviated, in Latin (2,2)
14 Greek letter
15 Eat in style
16 French or Italian?
18 Mexican lizard
20 Anatomical pouch
21 Greek capital to Air India
22 Part of the eye
25 Former French coin
28 Cover for a saucepan
29 Western alliance: abbr.
30 Praise
31 Jump on one leg
32 Attack or effort?
33 Give help
34 Eighth month, in short
35 Suspicious
36 Quick look
38 A tailor's measure
39 Hint
40 Early Greek astronomer
44 Somewhat indistinct
47 Exchange fee
48 Believer: suffix
49 ___ facto : by that very fact ?
50 Attendee
51 Your old fashioned usage ?
52 Camp beds
53 "Seen" anagram for a slave?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

I	A	M	A	■	P	U	T	■	A	B	I	D
C	H	I	V	A	L	R	Y	■	L	E	L	Y
E	E	R	O	■	Y	A	R	M	U	L	K	E
S	M	E	W	S	■	L	O	O	M	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	A	T	S	■	A	N	D	E	S
■	H	E	D	G	E	■	O	■	I	R	I	S
A	E	R	■	O	D	I	U	M	■	E	N	E
S	A	G	E	■	S	■	S	T	O	W	E	■
P	R	O	X	Y	■	B	E	N	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	P	E	R	U	■	L	D	O	P	A
E	N	V	I	S	A	G	E	■	I	R	A	N
P	A	I	R	■	S	L	A	T	T	E	R	N
I	N	R	E	■	P	E	R	■	Y	O	K	E

Down

1 Skywalker mentor
2 Computer operating system
3 Gambling town
4 Dublin is its capital
5 Pearly whites
6 Ex-Delhi paceman Wasan
7 Household god
8 Shut
9 Treasured
10 Puzzle solver's cry
11 Not, as a prefix?
17 Strike the floor or ground with light footsteps
19 Over the counter, acronym
22 Tear, rend or shred
23 Beau ___ : English dandy?
24 Resembling remains of fire?
25 Banner or pennant
26 Means of travel
27 Effrontery
28 Limb of a felled tree
31 Tint
32 Loot or plunder, ravish
34 Acid in vinegar
35 Petname for Florence
37 Lady in a convent
38 Attitude, beliefs
40 Attention-getter
41 Freudian terms
42 Bearing
43 Time past
44 Suitable
45 Kind of wood
46 BSE deal



SUDOKO

		7	2		5	8		
	8			6			4	
				8				
6		9				1		5
1				2				9
8		3				6		2
				3				
	6			4			2	
		2	9		8	7		

Answer to previous puzzle

7	6	4	8	1	9	5	2	3
2	9	5	7	6	3	4	8	1
1	3	8	2	5	4	9	7	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	1	4	5
5	8	7	9	4	1	3	6	2
6	4	1	5	3	2	8	9	7
3	5	2	4	9	6	7	1	8
8	7	9	1	2	5	6	3	4
4	1	6	3	7	8	2	5	9

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

JTN IJB HCJH BOFWPBOV HCO VWVQOTVPKT KL BOJVKT

JV J TOGOVVPHN LKB VWQQKBH PV J UJE IJB.

TODAY'S CLUE: H EQUALS T

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: The more I study religions the more I am convinced that man never worshipped anything but himself.

POSITIVITY UNLIMITED

'We will emerge victorious even from this pandemic'

Nivedita Bhide

On the 2nd day of the #PositivityUnlimited lecture series organised by COVID Response Team (CRT), Delhi, on May 12, Vice-President of Vivekananda Kendra-Kanyakumari, *Padmashri* Nivedita Bhide was another speaker, who said, "We will win and we will definitely win. This is because Bharat is an ancient nation and has passed through many such difficult phases. Hence, we will emerge victorious even from this pandemic. We certainly were shaken by the second wave which hit us suddenly. But gradually we all are coming together as a society and all government, public, institutions are coming together to fight the pandemic."

In order to win over the crisis, there are 5 things each of us can do:

1. Increase Life Force (Prana Shakti): We have to do Pranayama as COVID affects our lungs. We have to sit at a silent place and practice breathing rhythmically and gradually. Chant 'Om' repeatedly throughout the day. We have to chant at least in the morning and evening. Research also backs the claim that chanting 'Om' can increase immunity in us.

2. Understand our Subconscious Mind: We have to know our mind to stay positive. Swami Vivekananda had also spoken about the importance of our subconscious mind in staying positive. We have to remain positive when we deal with people and situations. We have to think good of the society, nation and world. COVID is an opportunity to learn the way to keep our mind positive.

3. Importance of Family: Due to COVID lockdown, families have an opportunity to stay together with all members. Earlier everyone was busy in their own work and lives. Now instead of being affected by negative news, when we are at home we have to concentrate on learning new things and new experiments. We can learn new languages. We can learn languages of other regions or learn Sanskrit. We can perform Surya Namaskar together in the family and involve our relatives and friends online. We can play new house games, cook food. We need not be concerned as we are not able to go outside and instead make use of it as an opportunity.

4. An Opportunity to Serve: COVID has given us an opportunity to serve the society which has given us so much. There are many people who need help in terms of food and other ways. Each day we can pray for the wellness of people who are in hospital and are recovering. There is strength in praying which also increases positivity in society. As Swami Vivekananda said the more we serve, closer we are in realising our true selves.

5. Understanding the nature of Death: We are from that civilisation and land which does not fear death. Just as Alexander failed to instill fear in Dandamis, we are from the land which does not fear death. We will face death with a smile if it is our time. Death is like changing one body to another and we need not fear. We think that our relatives have parted from us after death, but we might meet them again in the subsequent lives. Hence, we need not fear death.

While we serve others during this pandemic and earn 'punya', we also should not use it as an opportunity to take advantage of others at this difficult time. It is in the nature of Bharat to win over any difficulty and we will surely win this time too. We have to stay positive at this time to overcome the pandemic.

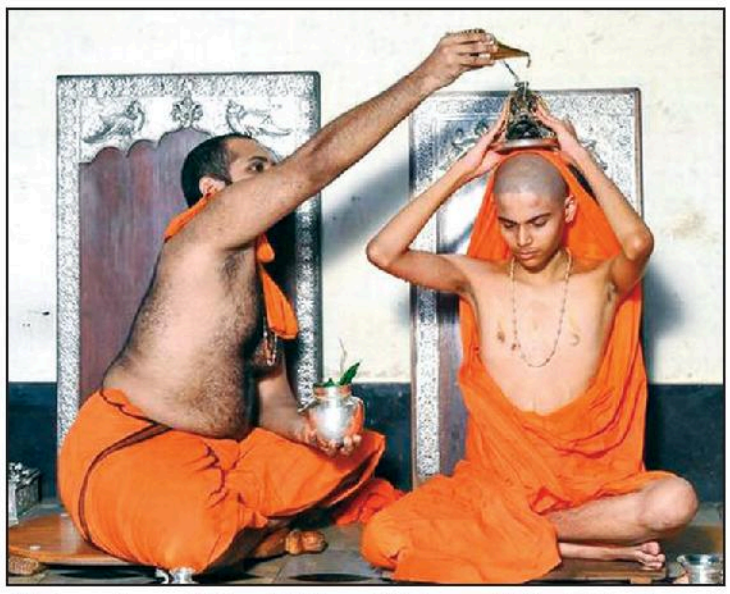
[Report: Prashanth Vaidyaraj]

Sri Vedavardhana Tirtha is 31st Seer of Udupi Shiroor Mutt

Udupi, May 16 (UNI)- Sixteen-year-old Aniruddha Saralathaya from Nidle village in Dakshina Kannada district was anointed as the 31st Seer of Udupi Shiroor Mutt on the Moola Mutt premises in Shiroor on Friday night by its Dwandwa Mutt Seer Sri Vishwavallabha Tirtha Swami of Udupi Sode Vadiraj Mutt.

Saralathaya was given the name of 'Vedavardhana Tirtha' before the anointment ceremony. The ceremony was initially planned at Sode Mutt's Moola Mutt at Sode in Uttara Kannada district but was shifted to Shiroor following the spread of the pandemic. He was initiated to Sanyasa by Vishwavallabha on Thursday. The seat had become vacant after the demise of Lakshmivara Tirtha Swami in 2018.

After the anointment ceremony, Vedavardhana entered Udupi town and proceeded to Anantheshwara temple and thereafter Chandramouleshwara temples, located on the periphery of Sri Krishna Mutt, and had a *darshan* of the presiding deities as per the tradition followed by Udupi Ashta Mutts.



Vedavardhana Tirtha** (right) **and Vishwavallabha Tirtha Swami at the anointment ceremony in Shiroor on Friday.

Upon his arrival at Sri Krishna Mutt, Adamar Mutt's Junior Seer Eshapriya Tirtha Swami, who is conducting the Paryaya, welcomed Vedavardhana in a traditional way.

He was taken to have the *darshan* of presiding deity Lord Sri Krishna along with Vishwavallabha Tirtha and Eshapriya Tirtha. The three Seers later addressed a small gathering of devotees at the Sri Krishna Mutt.

Vedavardhana Tirtha thereafter entered the Shiroor Mutt on Car Street and performed certain rituals.

Helping Hands' gesture to new COVID Hospital

Mysuru, May 16- Helping Hands, a Jain Youths Organisation, under its Health Project, donated blankets, bedsheets, plastic buckets, dustbins, mops, brooms, phenol, etc., to shortly opening COVID Hospital with nearly 100 beds in the premises of PKTB & CD Hospital on KRS Road, Mysuru.

Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. H.M. Virupaksha, speaking on the occasion, appreciated the activities of Helping Hands and thanked them for donating the useful things.

Helping Hands Secretary Anand Patwa briefed about the various activities of Helping Hands and thanked the Doctors for providing them an opportunity to serve and help the Hospital by providing the day to day requirements of new the Hospital.

President of Helping Hands Mahaveer Khabiya, Secretary Anand Patwa, Treasurer Rajan Baghmar, members Sampath Baghmar, Manohar Sankala, Sunil Patwa, Mahaveer Dhoka, Goutam Gandhi, RMO Dr. Jayashekar, Assistant Professor Dr. Rajesh Kumar Jain, Assistant Professor Dr. Samta, CMO Dr. Nandini and other staff were present on the occasion.

Varun Gandhi donates 100 oxygen cylinders

Pilibhit, May 16 (UNI)- BJP MP Varun Feroz Gandhi recently handed over 100 oxygen cylinders to the District Administration to help the people of his Parliamentary Constituency.

In the statement, Varun Gandhi, while assuring more help in future, also claimed that he is willing to mortgage his property to help the people suffering due to the COVID pandemic.

He said a few days ago, he had promised the people of Pilibhit that he would send 100 big cylinders to help them and he fulfilled his promise.

This consignment of oxygen was arranged through his own efforts and was funded by him, the statement said. These oxygen cylinders were brought from Mumbai.

The MP said people of Pilibhit district are his family and he will put in his all strength in the fight against the pandemic. During the lockdown last year, Varun Gandhi had distributed over 20 lakh food packets among the needy.

CM interacts with docs, instills confidence in them

Dr. K. Triveni of Mysuru speaks with CM Yediyurappa

Bengaluru/Mysuru, May 16 (RK&SSV)- Dr. K. Triveni from the Mysuru District Hospital, who was one among several doctors treating Corona positive patients day and night for last several weeks, interacted with Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa yesterday.

The CM held a video conference with Corona Warriors, who have been fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic without break and acknowledged their yeomen service to society, risking their lives. " You are working under tremendous pressure due to COVID. You take care of your health too," he added.

Dr Triveni, who treats Corona patients at District Hospital, had contracted infection with her daughter. After recovering from the contagion, both have continued to serve the patients.

The CM told Dr Triveni, "I came to know that you and your daughter had tested positive for Coronavirus. You both are saving lives of several people and at the same time please take care of your health too. Your service during the Covid crisis is exemplary", he said.

She told Yediyurappa that all precautions have been taken to reduce COVID cases in district. Due to those efforts, the recovery rate has increased.

He said pressure on doctors, medical staff and paramedics has increased after second wave of COVID-19. The current wave was proving more dangerous than the first wave. Need of the hour was to fight against the pandemic united and save lives of people.

The State Government was doing everything to provide quality treatment to patients by streamlining the availability of beds, ventilators, oxygen and ICU.

The medical staff is a priceless asset of society and the Government deems it honour to salute the medical fraternity for their tireless service at this hour of crisis, the CM added.

Doctors who shared their experiences, said that most ofthem had not gone home since the second wave struck the State. Nurses and paramedics also deserved appreciation as they too were working hand in hand with them all these months.

The State Government can take decision on training final year medical and nursing students. Shifting patients from one hospital to another hospital in Malnad area has become difficult and this region needs more number of ambulances.

They also urged the State Government to implement tough rules for the home isolated patients as they roam on streets without locking themselves inside room. By doing this, they were spreading the virus to others.

The availability of oxygen, Remdesivir injection and beds has improved now in most of the Government Hospitals, they noted.

Jawaid Akhtar, Additional Chief Secretary (Health), Dr. K.V. Trilok Chandra, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department, Dr. P.S. Harsha, Commissioner, Department of Information and Public Relations and others were present.

From September, 10 crore Covaxin per month: Centre

New Delhi, May 16 (PIB)- Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat 3.0 Mission, COVID Suraksha was announced by the Government of India, to accelerate the development and production of indigenous COVID Vaccines.

This is being implemented by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India at Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), New Delhi.

To augment the capacity of indigenous production of Covaxin under the Mission, the Department of Biotechnology in April provided financial support as grant to vaccine manufacturing facilities for enhanced production capacities, which is expected to reach more than 10 crore doses per month by September 2021.

As part of this augmentation plan, the capacities of Bharat Biotech Limited, Hyderabad, as well as other public sector manufactures are being upgraded with required infrastructure and technology.

Financial support is being provided as grant to the tune of about Rs. 65 crore to Bharat Biotech's new Bengaluru facility which is being re-purposed to increase the capacity of vaccine production.

The following three public sector companies are also being supported to increase the capacity of vaccine production.

Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, Mumbai - a State Public Sector Enterprise. Financial support of Rs. 65 crore as grant is being provided for this facility to make it ready for manufacturing.

The facility will have a capacity to produce 20 million doses per month, once functional.

Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL), Hyderabad – A facility under National Dairy Development Board is being provided a grant of Rs. 60 crore.

Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Limited (BIBCOL), Bulandshahr, a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Department of Biotechnology is being supported with a grant of Rs. 30 crore to prepare their facility to provide 10-15 million doses per month.

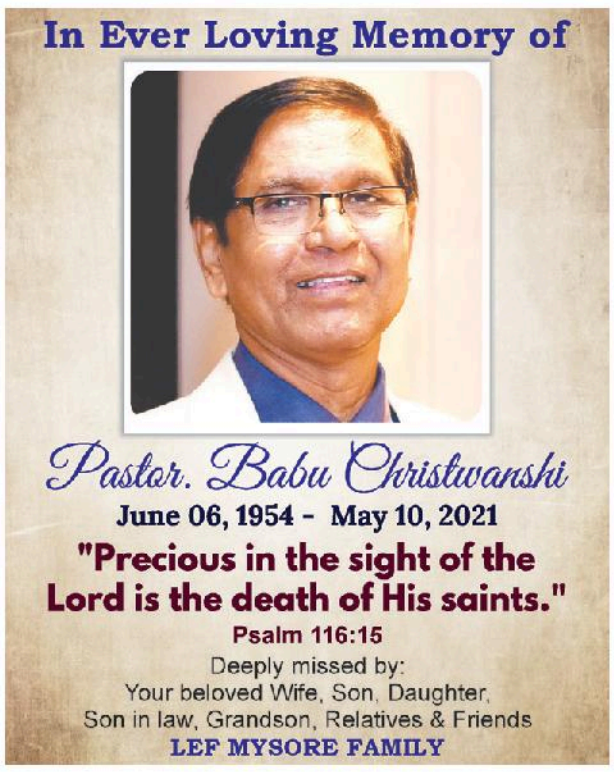
Further, Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, Gujarat's Department of Science and Technology along with Hester Biosciences and OmniBRx also firmed up its discussions with Bharat Biotech to scale up the Covaxin technology and to produce minimum 20 million doses per month.

Vacancy for Nurses
at Mysore Hospital
Salary: 15K to 25K
Other facility provided as per experience.
We also require Nurses
for other State.
Please contact on WhatsApp
on 9540348701 or email:
chattopadayar@gmail.com

LAND REQUIRED
FOR LEASE
LAND MEASURING
20,000 to 30,000 Sqft.,
on Mysuru-Nanjangud National Highway / Mysuru - Hunsur National Highway for Petrol Bunk.
7026063955 / 6366472620

WhatsApp date, time and place of birth to:
9916336696
for Making-matching horoscope, knowing good & bad time, suitable gems.
NO FEE, donation as you like
Dr. Biresh Kumar, Ph.D.

STAR OF MYSORE
DISCLAIMER
Readers may make appropriate enquiries regarding the Advertised product with the Advertisers concerned. Star of Mysore shall not be held liable for any consequences or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this Newspaper.
— Management


In Ever Loving Memory of
Pastor. Babu Christwanshi
June 06, 1954 - May 10, 2021
"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."
Psalm 116:15
Deeply missed by:
Your beloved Wife, Son, Daughter,
Son in law, Grandson, Relatives & Friends
LEF MYSORE FAMILY

Want to Advertise in
STAR OF MYSORE & ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಿತ್ರ (MYSURU MITHRA)
Call: 94485-25060 / 89516-68960 / 98805-49879
STAR OF MYSORE- Email: ad@starofmysore.com | MYSURU MITHRA- Email: ad@mysurumithra.com

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520 / 2496521 / 2496522 / 2496523 / 2496526 / 2496527 / 2496528. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Phone : 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.